equipments for the power stations of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are invited only when so required by the guidelines indicated by the external agencies funding the project. The capabilities of the Indian manufacturers are taken care of at the stage of framing the qualifying requirements for the prospective bidders and domestic bidders are allowed price preference over foreign bidders.

(c) Eight 500 MW TG sets have been procured by the NTPC on negotiated single tender basis from M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), in association with M/s. KWU of West Germany, who are M/s. BHEL's technical collaborators. These TG sets relate to the Singarauli (2x500 MW), Korba (3x500 MW) and Ramagundam (3x500 MW) Super Thermal Power projects, amounting to a total value of approximately Rs. 378.50 crores.

Import of technology

1443. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to certain differences between the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, and the Semi-Conductor Limited, Chandigarh indigenous capacity is proposed to be by-passed and 1.5 micron technology costing about Rs. 50 crore in foreign exchange is to be imported;

(b) if so, what is the nature of differences and what are the difficulties in resolving the issues involved; and

(c) what are the considerations which weighed with Government to by-pass the indigenous capability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Indigenous capability is not being by-passed since 1.5 micron technology is not available in India. The 1.5 micron technology is to cost US $ 3.50 Million.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed import is meant to cater to the rapid prototyping needs of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore for a range of Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs) which are required to be developed by them to meet their in-house requirements of telecommunication equipment. Large scale manufacture of these circuits could be undertaken by Semi-Conductor Limited, Chandigarh.

Proposal to amend the Indian Patents Act

1444. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Patents Act to accommodate certain suggestions made by the U.S. Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what implications are involved therein; and

(c) what is the decision; if any, taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not received any suggestions from the Government of USA for amendment of the Indian Patents Act. However, as a part of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under GATT, the U.S. Government has made certain proposals concerning norms and standards for protection of intellectual property rights. Such proposals will be dealt with as part of the multilateral trade negotiations.